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RCE/2854 #

PTO/SB/30 (09-03)

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Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal

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Application Number	09/315,796
Filing Date	May 20, 1999
First Named Inventor	Bill L. Davis
Art Unit	2854
Examiner Name	Stephen Funk
Attorney Docket Number	111667-1000

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on _____

ii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)

iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. _____

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 385.00 enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Kenneth T. Emanuelson	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	46.684
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	5-12-2004

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Name (Print/Type)	Anne Ziegler	Date	May 12, 2004
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Appl. No. 09/315,796
Amendment Dated May 12, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/315,796
Applicant : Davis et al.
Filed : May 20, 1999
For : Combined Lithographic/Flexographic Printing
Apparatus and Process
Examiner : Stephen Funk
Docket No. : 111667-1000

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(37 CFR 1.8a)

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KEN EMANUELSON

(Signature of person mailing paper)

Date: 5-12-2004

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the Request for Continued Examination filed concurrently herewith, Applicants provide this Amendment of the Claims.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.

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Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

6. (amended) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:
a plurality of successive printing stations for printing color images on a substrate in a continuous in-line process;

one of said printing stations comprising a first offset lithographic printing station printing an image using the lithographic process;

one of said printing stations comprising a first offset flexographic printing station, downstream of the first offset lithographic printing station, printing an aqueous-based vehicle image using the flexographic process to form a metallic coating;

a suspended metallic material being included in said aqueous-based vehicle image; and

at least one of the successive printing stations comprising [an offset] a second offset lithographic printing station printing a color image over the aqueous-based vehicle image using the offset lithographic process in said continuous in-line process.

10. (amended) Apparatus for creating a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:

a plurality of successive printing stations for printing color images on a substrate in a continuous in-line process;

one of said stations comprising a first flexographic printing station for printing a first color image using the flexographic process;

one of said stations downstream of the first flexographic printing station comprising a second flexographic printing station for printing or coating the substrate using the flexographic process;

and

at least one of the successive printing stations comprising an offset lithographic printing station for printing a second color image over the first color image using the offset lithographic process in said continuous in-line process.

15. (twice amended) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:

a plurality of successive printing stations for printing color images on a substrate in a continuous in-line process, said printing stations including both lithographic and flexographic printing stations;

one of said printing stations comprising a first flexographic printing station;

one of said printing stations comprising a first lithographic printing station;

a blanket cylinder at [at least a first one of] said first flexographic printing station [stations];

an impression cylinder associated with at least said first one of said flexographic printing stations;

flexographic ink-providing means at said [at least] first [one of said] flexographic printing station [stations] for applying a flexographic ink to said blanket cylinder to form an image;

a substrate for receiving said flexographic ink image transferred from said blanket cylinder; [and]

[at least one subsequent] a second lithographic printing station in said in-line process for receiving said image printed substrate and printing an additional colored ink image on said substrate on top of said flexographic ink image using offset lithography; and

a second flexographic printing station.

16. (amended) Apparatus as in claim 15 further comprising:

a plate cylinder at said [at least first one of said] first flexographic [stations] station;
a flexographic plate on said plate cylinder for receiving and transferring said flexographic ink to said blanket cylinder; and
said flexographic ink-providing means including a flexographic ink supply and an anilox roller associated with said flexographic ink supply for transferring said flexographic ink to said flexographic plate.

17. (amended) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process for printing a multicolored image comprising:

a plurality of successive printing stations for printing color on a substrate in a continuous in-line process, said printing stations including both lithographic and flexographic printing stations;

[at least] one of said flexographic printing stations being a first flexographic printing station having:

(1) a plate cylinder and a blanket cylinder, said plate cylinder including a flexographic plate having an image thereon for transferring a flexographic color ink image to said blanket cylinder;

(2) an etched anilox roller for applying a flexographic color ink to said flexographic plate on said plate cylinder;

(3) an impression cylinder in ink-transfer relationship with said blanket cylinder for transferring said flexographic color ink image from said blanket cylinder to said substrate; [and]

at least one of said succeeding printing stations being a lithographic printing station using offset lithography for printing additional colored ink images on top of said flexographic ink image; and

one of said flexographic printing stations being a second flexographic printing station.

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29. (amended) A method of combining lithography and flexographic printing in a continuous in-line process comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of successive lithographic/flexographic printing stations for printing colored ink images on a substrate;

printing a flexographic ink image on said substrate at at least a first one of said flexographic stations;

transferring said printed substrate to at least one subsequent lithographic printing station in said continuous in-line process; [and]

printing colored ink images on top of said flexographic ink image at [at least one of] said subsequent lithographic printing [stations] station with an offset lithographic process; and
coating said substrate at a second one of said flexographic stations.

37. (amended) A method of combining offset lithography and flexographic printing in a continuous in-line process comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate;

applying a flexographic ink to a blanket cylinder in a pattern with a coating head at a first flexographic printing station;

transferring said pattern of flexographic ink from said blanket cylinder to the substrate;

transferring said substrate to a second flexographic printing station;

applying a pattern of flexographic ink to the substrate using the second flexographic printing station;

and

printing a waterless ink pattern over said flexographic ink pattern on said substrate using at least one subsequent offset lithographic printing station in said continuous in-line process.

38. (amended) A method of combining lithography and flexographic printing in a continuous in-line process comprising the steps of:

printing an aqueous-based vehicle image having suspended particles therein on a substrate at a first flexographic printing station;

transferring said image printed substrate to [at least one additional] a subsequent printing station in said continuous in-line process; [and]

printing additional colored ink images on said printed substrate over said aqueous-based vehicle image in an offset lithographic process at said at least one additional printing station in said in-line process; and

coating over said colored ink images on said substrate using a flexographic process.

Please cancel claims 42-43.

44. (three times amended) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:

a substrate;

a plurality of successive printing stations for depositing a series of images on one side of a substrate in a continuous in-line process;

one of said printing stations comprising a first flexographic printing station for printing a first liquid vehicle image on said substrate using a flexographic process; and

one of said printing stations subsequent to the first flexographic printing station comprising a first lithographic printing station;

one of said printing stations subsequent to the first lithographic printing station comprising a second flexographic printing station for printing a second liquid vehicle image on said substrate using a flexographic process; and

one of said printing stations subsequent to the second flexographic printing station comprising a second lithographic printing station;

whereby the second liquid vehicle image is printed on top of at least a portion of that printed at the first lithographic printing station.

46. (three times amended) Apparatus as in claim 44 wherein at least one image deposited by one of the lithographic printing stations comprises ink.

Please cancel claims 49-57.

58. (three times amended) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:

a plurality of successive printing stations for depositing a series of images on a substrate in a continuous in-line process, said printing stations including, both lithographic and at least two flexographic printing stations;

a blanket cylinder at at least a first one of said flexographic printing stations;

flexographic ink-providing means for applying a flexographic ink to said blanket cylinder to form an image on one side of a substrate;

a substrate for receiving said flexographic ink image transferred from said blanket cylinder; and

at least one subsequent lithographic printing station in said in-line process for receiving said image printed substrate and printing an additional colored ink image on said substrate on top of said flexographic ink image.

Please cancel claims 60-81.

82. (Four times Amended) A method of combining lithography and flexographic printing in a continuous in-line process comprising the steps of:

(1) providing a plurality of successive printing stations for depositing a series of images on a substrate in said in-line continuous process;

(2) utilizing an anilox roller to transfer a liquid ink as one of said series of images to a flexographic plate image at least one of said printing stations;

(3) printing said liquid ink from said flexographic plate image to one side of said substrate;

(4) transferring said printed substrate with said liquid ink image to a subsequent printing station in said inline printing process;

(5) repeating steps (2)-(4) at subsequent printing stations in said in-line process to achieve a desired opacity ink image on the one side of said substrate; and

(6) printing an ink pattern on said substrate using an offset lithographic process.

Please cancel claims 85-151.

152. (new) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:
a substrate having a first side and a second side;
a plurality of successive printing stations for printing color images on the substrate in a
continuous in-line process, the successive printing stations including:
a first lithographic printing station for printing an image on the first side of the substrate
using the lithographic process;
a first flexographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
first lithographic printing station, for printing an image on the first side of the substrate using the
flexographic process;
a second lithographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
first flexographic printing station, for printing an image on the first side of the substrate using the
lithographic process; and
a second flexographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
second lithographic printing station, for printing an image on the first side of the substrate using
the flexographic process.

152. (new) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:

153. (new) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:
a substrate;
a plurality of successive printing stations for printing color images on the substrate in a
continuous in-line process, the successive printing stations including:
a first flexographic printing station for printing an image on the first side of the substrate
using the flexographic process;
a first lithographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
first lithographic printing station, for printing an image on the substrate using the lithographic
process;
a second flexographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
first lithographic printing station, for printing an image on the substrate using the flexographic
process; and
a second lithographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
second flexographic printing station, for printing an image on the first side of the substrate using
the lithographic process.

to the "parent" document

154. (new) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:
a substrate;
a plurality of successive printing stations for printing color images on the substrate in a
continuous in-line process, the successive printing stations including:
a first lithographic printing station;
a first flexographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
first lithographic printing station;
a first dryer, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the first flexographic printing
station;
a second lithographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
first dryer;
a second dryer, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the second lithographic
printing station;
a second flexographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
second dryer; and
a third dryer, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the second flexographic
printing station.

155. (new) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:
a substrate;
a plurality of successive printing stations for printing color images on the substrate in a
continuous in-line process, the successive printing stations including:
a first lithographic printing station;
a first dryer, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the first lithographic printing
station;
a first flexographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
first dryer;
a second dryer, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the first flexographic
printing station;
a second lithographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
second dryer;
a third dryer, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the second lithographic
printing station;
a second flexographic printing station, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the
third dryer; and
a fourth dryer, subsequent in the continuous in-line process to the second flexographic
printing station.

156. (new) A method for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate having a first side and a second side;

printing an image on the first side of the substrate using a first lithographic printing station;

transferring the substrate from the first lithographic printing station to a first flexographic printing station;

printing an image on the first side of the substrate using the first flexographic printing station;

transferring the substrate from the first flexographic printing station to a second lithographic printing station;

printing an image on the first side of the substrate using the second lithographic printing station;

transferring the substrate from the second lithographic printing station to a second flexographic printing station;

printing an image on the first side of the substrate using the second flexographic printing station.

156. (new) A method for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process, the method comprising the steps of:

157. (new) A method for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate;

printing an image on the substrate using a first flexographic printing station;

transferring the substrate from the first flexographic printing station to a first lithographic printing station;

printing an image on the first side of the substrate using the first lithographic printing station;

transferring the substrate from the first lithographic printing station to a second flexographic printing station;

printing an image on the first side of the substrate using the second flexographic printing station;

transferring the substrate from the second flexographic printing station to a second lithographic printing station;

printing an image on the first side of the substrate using the second lithographic printing station.

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158. (new) A method for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate;

printing an image on the substrate using a first lithographic printing station;

transferring the substrate from the first lithographic printing station to a first flexographic printing station;

printing an image on the substrate using the first flexographic printing station;

transferring the substrate from the first flexographic printing station to a first dryer;

drying the substrate in the first dryer;

transferring the substrate from the first dryer to a second lithographic printing station;

printing an image on the first side of the substrate using the second lithographic printing station;

transferring the substrate from the second lithographic printing station to a second dryer;

drying the substrate in the second dryer;

transferring the substrate from the second dryer to a second flexographic printing station;

printing an image on the substrate using the second flexographic printing station;

transferring the substrate from the second flexographic printing station to a third dryer;

and

drying the substrate in the third dryer.

for sale

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 are patented, are pending in this reissue, and are allowed.

Claim 6 has been amended to specifically recite “a first lithographic printing station,” a “second lithographic printing station” and “a first flexographic printing station.” Support for this amendment is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45.

Claims 7-9 are pending and not amended by this amendment.

Claim 10 has been amended to specifically recite “a first flexographic printing station” and “a second flexographic printing station.” Support for this amendment is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45.

Claim 11 is pending and not amended by this amendment.

Claims 12-14 are patented, are pending in this reissue, and are allowed.

Claim 15 has been amended to specifically recite “a first flexographic printing station” and “a first lithographic printing station.” Support for this amendment is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45.

Claim 16 has been amended in order to conform the language of dependent claim 16 to the language of independent claim 15.

Claim 17 has been amended to specifically recite “a first flexographic printing station” and “a second flexographic printing station.” Support for this amendment is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45.

Claims 18-28 are pending and not amended by this amendment.

Claim 29 has been amended to specifically recite “a first one of said flexographic stations,” “a second one of said flexographic stations” and to recite that the substrate is coated at the second recited flexographic station. Support for this amendment is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45. Other amendments to the claim are for consistency of usage.

Claims 30-36 are pending and not amended by this amendment.

Claim 37 has been amended to specifically recite the steps of “transferring said substrate to a second flexographic printing station” and “applying a pattern of flexographic ink to the substrate using the second flexographic printing station.” Support for this amendment is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45.

Claim 38 has been amended to specifically recite the step of “coating over said colored ink images on said substrate using a flexographic process.” Support for this amendment is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 5, line 57 through col. 6, line 5.

Claims 39-41 are patented, are not amended by this amendment and are allowed.

Claims 42-43 have been canceled.

Claim 44 has been amended to specifically recite a first flexographic printing station, a first lithographic printing station, a second flexographic printing station and a second lithographic printing station. Claim 44 has also been amended to remove the language relating to printing on the opposite side of the substrate. Support for these amendments is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45.

Claim 45 is pending and not amended by this amendment.

Claim 46 has been amended to conform the language of dependent claim 46 to independent claim 44.

Claims 47-48 are pending and not amended by this amendment.

Claims 49-57 have been canceled.

Claim 58 has been deemed allowable subject to amendment. Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Claim 58 has been amended to remove the language "on the opposite side to that previously printed." This amendment was made in response to the Examiner's objection to this specific language of this claim on the grounds that this language lacked support in the specification.

Claim 59 has been deemed allowable subject to amendment of Claim 58. Claim 59 is pending and not amended by this amendment.

Claims 60-81 have been canceled.

Claim 82 has been deemed allowable subject to amendment. Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Claim 82 has been amended to remove language reciting printing "on the reverse side." This amendment was made in response to the Examiner's objection to this specific language of this claim on the grounds that this language lacked support in the specification.

Claims 83 and 84 have been deemed allowable subject to amendment of Claim 82. Claims 83 and 84 are pending and not amended by this amendment.

Claims 85-151 have been canceled.

Claim 152 is a new claim reciting a first lithographic printing station, a first flexographic printing station, a second lithographic printing station and a second flexographic printing station,

wherein each station prints on the same first side of a substrate. Support for these amendments is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45.

Claim 153 is a new claim reciting a first lithographic printing station, a first flexographic printing station, a second lithographic printing station and a second flexographic printing station, wherein each station prints on the same first side of a substrate. Support for these amendments is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45.

Claim 154 is a new claim reciting a first lithographic printing station, a first flexographic printing station, a second lithographic printing station and a second flexographic printing station. Support for these amendments is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45. Claim 154 also recites a series of dryers, each disposed subsequent to a printing station. Support for these amendments is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 52-59 and col. 6, lines 41-51.

Claim 155 is a new claim reciting a first lithographic printing station, a first flexographic printing station, a second lithographic printing station and a second flexographic printing station. Support for these amendments is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45. Claim 155 also recites a series of dryers, each disposed subsequent to a printing station. Support for these amendments is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 52-59 and col. 6, lines 41-51.

Claim 156 is a new claim reciting a first lithographic printing station, a first flexographic printing station, a second lithographic printing station and a second flexographic printing station. Support for these amendments is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45.

Claim 157 is a new claim reciting a first lithographic printing station, a first flexographic printing station, a second lithographic printing station and a second flexographic printing station. Support for these amendments is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45.

Claim 158 is a new claim reciting a first lithographic printing station, a first flexographic printing station, a second lithographic printing station and a second flexographic printing station. Support for these amendments is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 23-32 and 33-45. Claim 158 also recites a series of dryers, each disposed subsequent to a printing station. Support for these amendments is found throughout the disclosure, and specifically at col. 4, lines 52-59 and col. 6, lines 41-51.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the enclosed amendments do not add new matter and their entry is respectfully requested. Other than the RCE Fee enclosed herewith, Applicants submit that no additional fee is necessitated by this Amendment. If this is incorrect, the Director is hereby authorized to deduct any fee, or credit any overpayment, to Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP deposit account No. 07-0153.

Respectfully submitted,

GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL, L.L.P.



Kenneth T. Emanuelson, Reg. No. 46,684

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Dated: 5-12-2004